

The Washington Post

Grants in Education

2002 - 03

VIRGINIA

K-5 Publishing Centers

James K. Polk Elementary School
5000 Polk Avenue, Alexandria, Va. 22304; 703-461-4180;
FAX 703-751-8614
Submitted by: Melissa Steele

This innovative publishing project offers students in grades kindergarten through five an opportunity to write individual or class books and have them published in a hard-bound book for themselves, parents, grandparents and others. This project will encourage students to plan strategies for their writing, organize information, use written language effectively and use available technology.

Adapting the Classroom to Create Play Opportunities for Preschool Children with Significant Disabilities

Deer Park Elementary School
15109 Carlbern Drive, Centreville, Va. 20120; 703-802-5000;
FAX 703-802-5097
Submitted by: Erica Wyman

This adaptive learning program provides preschool and special education students with age-appropriate play opportunities and encourage social-interaction skills. The use of assistive technology (e.g. adapted toys, switch-activated and multi-sensory toys) will allow all children in the class successful opportunities to play with toys.

Alphabet Soup

Mantua Elementary School
9107 Horner Court, Fairfax, Va. 22031; 703-645-6400;
FAX 703-645-6397
Submitted by: Darlene Combs, Pat Potocki and Chris Worley
Alphabet Soup is a language-based cooking activity for the hearing impaired students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Focusing on the alphabet letter of the week, students will learn vocabulary, sequencing skills and build language during the cooking activities.

Buddy Books

JEB Stuart High School
3301 Peace Valley Lane, Falls Church, Va. 22044;
703-824-3900; FAX 703-824-3997
Submitted by: Kristine Scull and Pam Bumstead
A reading program that pairs general and special education ninth grade English students with elementary school readers. By writing books to share with their elementary school partners, high school students will see the importance of writing, learning by doing and the elements of a short story.

Choose Your Own Book Adventure

Annandale High School
4700 Medford Drive, Annandale, Va. 22003; 703-642-4100;
FAX 703-642-4197
Submitted by: Audrey Reiter

English as a Second Language (ESOL) students will choose their own reading materials for daily, pleasure-reading. Students will have an active role in choosing the materials for their own classrooms. Students will be allowed to read for fifteen minutes each day in the classroom. The project will encourage student ownership of the program, which is designed to increase English reading comprehension and motivate them to read in English.

Classroom Connect

West Springfield High School
6100 Rolling Road, Springfield, Va. 22152; 703-913-3800;
FAX 703-913-3897
Submitted by: Hannah Chang

Classroom Connect provides an educational and stimulating collection of current event materials from magazines for minority students with limited English proficiency. The objective is to increase reading and writing skills, expand knowledge of current events, politics, science, the arts and sports from the United States and around the world.

Cougar Bites

Manassas Park High School
8200 Euclid Avenue, Manassas Park, Va. 20111-2394;
703-361-9131; FAX 703-330-1218
Submitted by: Jim Dunton

Twelfth grade students studying marketing will participate in this program that teaches how to launch and run a successful business. The students will have the opportunity to apply the concepts learned in class and create a "textbook" example of a business.

Dazzling Discoveries: Math, Science & Technology Expos

Little River Elementary School
43464 Hyland Hills Street, South Riding, Va. 20152;
703-444-8000; FAX 703-444-8005
Submitted by: Jennifer Suh, Dan Greco, Jim Spiros, Amy Harris and Matt Burns

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade will take part in a month of school-wide science, math and technology activities. The culminating event will be a family evening where different stations will be set up that will connect science, math and technology concepts to real life learning experiences.

Economics: A Business Community Simulation

Mount Vernon Community School
2601 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria, Va. 22305;
703-706-4460; FAX 703-706-4466

Submitted by: Eileen Campbell, Melanie Needels, Suzanne Elbeze, Maria Fletcher and Wendy Belk

Second grade students will transform their class into an economic community. Students will become cashiers, bankers, photographers and security guards as they gain first-hand experience with economic terms and principles. Throughout the simulation activity, students will learn to perform tasks needed for successful participation in daily economic life, from filling out a job application, advertising and producing products, balancing a checkbook, analyzing sales data and investing in a company.

Facilitating Communication between Students who are Nonverbal and the General Population

Kilmer Center
8102 Wolftrap Road, Vienna, Va. 22180; 571-226-8440;
FAX 571-226-8497

Submitted by: Kelly Hiza

Designed to assist in conversation between students who are nonverbal, their general education peers and members of the community. This project allows students to become involved in socially appropriate interactions with others using various types of augmentative communication devices.

Farmwell Station Poetry Performance Projects

Farmwell Station Middle School
44281 Gloucester Parkway, Ashburn, Va. 20147; 703-771-6491;
FAX 703-771-6495

Submitted by: Freyja Bergthorson and Barb Grubre

This creative writing project will provide middle school students with a unique and innovative publishing opportunity. Students will learn to create, edit and combine voice, sound effects and visual images (including digital photography and film) to enhance the presentation of their poetry. Students will then compose poetry and create multimedia presentations of their poems that will be published on the Internet.

German Reading Program: Reading to Learn in the Foreign Language Classroom

Robert E. Lee High School and Key Middle School
6540 Franconia Road, Springfield, Va. 22150; 703-924-8300;
FAX 703-924-8397

Submitted by: Haley Crittenden

A classroom-based project that provides an opportunity for middle school students to learn a foreign language through the process of reading German children's and young adult books.

Growing A Garden of Learners

Kings Park Elementary School
5400 Harrow Way, Springfield, Va. 22151; 703-426-7000;
FAX 703-426-7097

Submitted by: Gail Ritchie

Growing a Garden of Learners is a hands-on, minds-on program where the classroom year is framed around the metaphor of gardening. Author and artist studies, kindergarten and first grade Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives for language arts, science and social studies have all been incorporated in this

program. The program encourages students to become more interested in reading aloud because the literature relates to classroom themes and topics of study.

Hands-On Architecture

Foundation School of Alexandria
25 South Quaker Lane, Alexandria, Va. 22314; 703-212-2090;
FAX 703-212-0465

Submitted by: Victoria Walchak

A project for high school students with various emotional disorders and learning disabilities, this project gives students an opportunity to study the history of the built environment. Students will tour the National Building Museum and participate in hands-on workshops including active viewing, the use of manipulatives, writing, drawing and constructing. Students will be encouraged to think about the form, function and cultural significance of buildings and asked to design their own buildings. The buildings will be displayed with student composed texts describing their work.

Home Literacy for the English Language Learner (ELL) Whose First Language is Spanish

Weems Elementary School
8250 Weems Road, Manassas, Va. 20110; 703-257-8799;
FAX 703-257-8786

Submitted by: Andrea Zaveski and Maria Martinez

A reading program designed for the English Language Learner (ELL), will provide an opportunity for Spanish-speaking ESL students, in grades kindergarten through five, to check out books in both languages along with activities to be completed at home with parents. The materials will be accompanied by a letter in Spanish to the parents explaining the project. The students will return the completed reading and home activities. They will reread the book in English to the teacher in the classroom.

HomeFUN Project

James G. Brumfield Elementary School
550 Arlington Boulevard, Warrenton, Va. 20186; 540-347-6180;
FAX 540-341-7816

Submitted by: Lisa Rittenhouse

This homework program provides hands-on experience for first grade students. Each HomeFUN kit targets specific Standards of Learning tests (SOLs). In addition, HomeFUN targets individual instructional levels and includes the use of language arts or math manipulatives to achieve better results on the SOL exam.

Keep it REAL

Mark Twain Center
4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria, Va. 22310; 703-313-3711;
FAX 703-313-3765

Submitted by: Carlyn Floyd, Jim Grace, Judith Stah and Michelle Peters

Keep it REAL is a project promoting the idea of Responsible Effort Advances Leadership. Students in the seventh and eighth grades with emotional disabilities will take leadership roles in task delegation and project implementation. The students will develop and strengthen leadership and academic skills by cultivating a garden in the school's courtyard. The garden project ties seventh and eighth grade science, math and English Standards of Learning Tests together as well as working to improve social skills and peer relationships among students.

Literacy Resources for Hispanic Parents

Newington Forest Elementary School
8001 Newington Forest Avenue, Springfield, Va. 22153;
703-923-2600; FAX 703-923-2697

Submitted by: Marcia Waro, Judy Bailey and Nan Johnson

This literary program focuses on parents of Hispanic preschool and primary grade children for early literacy training and support. The basis of the program will be two half-hour programs in Spanish along with a discussion. Modeling of effective use of school materials such as audiotapes, books and toys that support the project will be provided along with the materials for at-home use.

Literary Lunch Bunch: An Intergenerational Book Club

Washington Mill Elementary School
9100 Cherry Tree Drive, Alexandria, Va. 22309; 703-619-2500;
FAX 703-619-2597

Submitted by: Forrest S. Chilton

This intergenerational book discussion group involves sixth grade students and local senior citizens. Every participant in the program would read a young adult book each month. The book would then be discussed over a monthly lunch meeting at the school.

Lords and Ladies of the Manor

St. Leo The Great School
3704 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, Va. 22030; 703-273-1211;
FAX 703-273-6913

Submitted by: Karen Hardy

Lords and Ladies of the Manor will provide students in grades six through eight with a unique opportunity to broaden their knowledge about the Medieval period while increasing their appreciation and understanding of life today. The studies will explore the Medieval system of feudalism as well as the social classes from peasantry to royalty. The studies will culminate in a Medieval Feast complete with costumes, entertainment, Medieval Norse games and crafts topped off by a Medieval meal of wassail, cheese, fowl legs and Yorkshire pudding.

Magnetic Angles & Polygons in Everyday Life

George Washington Middle School
1005 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, Va. 22301;
703-706-4800; FAX 703-706-4807

Submitted by: Robert Woollard

Sixth grade students will have an opportunity to utilize their classroom-acquired knowledge of identifying angles and circles. This project uses an outdoor setting to teach angle recognition and polygon identification. Using a magnetic compass the students will "walk" a compass course and pick out various geometric shapes from the surrounding terrain.

"Making Mini-Motor Mouths" by Implementing Oral-Motor Therapy

Keene Mill Elementary School
6310 Barda Avenue, Springfield, Va. 22152; 703-644-4788;
FAX 703-644-4797

Submitted by: Patricia S. Miserendino

This therapeutic program for developmentally delayed preschoolers is intended to increase the strength and coordination of the articulator muscles needed for speech development

in. The program is based on modeling innovative and creative techniques, video training and use of motivating therapy tools such as horns, straws, whistles and bubbles.

Math Mania

Brooke Point High School
1700 Courthouse Road, Stafford, Va. 22554; 540-658-6080; FAX
540-658-6072

Submitted by: Fran Sprankle

Math Mania is a program for students in grades nine through twelve designed to provide a firm foundation and greater understanding of mathematical concepts. Success in learning of mathematical concepts will be obtained through various activities. The students will use individual whiteboards to work problems, reason mathematically and think critically. All of these activities allow students to work independently and cooperatively and offer immediate feedback.

Motion Commotion: Dancing through the Water Cycle

Haycock Elementary School
6616 Haycock Road, Falls Church, Va. 22043; 703-531-4000;
FAX 703-531-4097

Submitted by: Kathy Swanda, Lauren Kennedy and Linda White

Fourth grade students will participate in this program that creatively links learning and science with dance by working with a New Mexican dancer and educator during a week-long residency. The educator-in-residence will introduce choreographic principles and creative movement as the students explore microscopic and macroscopic views of the water cycle. Students will create human water sculptures and moving tableaux of the various phases of the water cycle. The final culmination of this juxtaposition of dance and science will be a mini performance in conjunction with the unveiling of a pond in our Cougar Woods community habitat area.

Multiple Intelligences Bloom in the Schoolyard Habitat

Kate Waller Barrett Elementary School
4401 North Henderson Road, Arlington, Va. 22203;
703-228-6288; FAX 703-351-0023

Submitted by: Laurie Sullivan, Spencer Reisinger, Michael Henrickson and Elizabeth Burgos

This is a project where students in the fourth grade will use the courtyard habitat for an interdisciplinary life science unit. This unit will incorporate science, math, reading, writing, speaking and the arts. The finale will be the Garden Artwork Unveiling and Plant Presentation to the school.

My Own Library

Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy
530 South Asaph Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314; 703-706-4430;
FAX 703-684-0252

Submitted by: Elizabeth Kristina Fischer

My Own Library will encourage kindergarten through second grade students to read outside school and create a book culture at home. Each child would be given a short book to take home and read aloud. The person to whom the child reads to would sign the book and the child returns it to school. The students will then create a decorated cereal box holder for their books.

Operation C.O.P.S. (Capitalization, Organization, Punctuation and Spelling)

Emerick Elementary

440 South Nursery Avenue, Purcellville, Va. 20132;

540-338-6870; FAX 540-338-6876

Submitted by: Renee Voce, Karen Claterbos, Sarah Harper, Karin Lewis, Janie McWilliams and Judy White

This program allows students in the first through fifth grade classrooms to improve their writing skills. The students will compose letters to their local police department thanking them for keeping the community safe. An invitation will be sent to the police department inviting them to the school to read their responses to the students' letters.

Outdoor Classroom Project

Mount Daniel School

2328 North Oak Street, Falls Church, Va. 22046; 703-248-5640;

FAX 703-248-5642

Submitted by: Carolyn Appleby, Carol Monsess and Andrea Stoeckl

The Outdoor Classroom Project is a collaborative effort with The Education Task Group of the Falls Church City Recycling and Litter Prevention Council. Students in preschool, kindergarten and first grade will integrate outdoor learning lessons about gardening, growth cycles, seasonal changes, natural resources, and horticulture in the school yard.

Over the Mountains, Through the Woods, To the Coast We Go

Ball's Bluff Elementary School

821 Battlefield Parkway N.E., Leesburg, Va. 20176;

703-779-8300; FAX 703-779-8804

Submitted by: Tamara Morgan and Patricia Herr

Fourth grade students will use an interactive approach to create a museum exhibit displaying the five regions of Virginia. The students will create maps that include Virginia landforms, natural resources, major cities and industry. They will create and purchase artifacts representing each region. The exhibit will include a historical timeline for each region. During a school-sponsored museum night, the exhibit will be open to the public.

Pickle Grabbers, Cornmeal and Pencil Grips: A Sensorimotor Approach to Handwriting

Escuela Key School

2300 Key Boulevard, Arlington, Va. 22201; 703-228-2410;

FAX 703-524-2236

Submitted by: Heather Parsons and Heidi Soehrman

This program will provide supplementary materials for the classroom to promote development of handwriting skills for kindergarten and first grade students. By providing fine motor, sensory and adaptive materials to be used within the classroom, the project seeks to lay a foundation for strong written work throughout student's academic careers.

Polymers, Plastics and Recycling

Parkside Middle School

8602 Mathis Avenue, Manassas, Va. 20110; 703-361-3106;

FAX 703-361-8993

Submitted by: Michele Brustolon, Tamara Zimmerman and Jennifer Burch

A recycling program designed to educate eighth grade Physical Science students about polymers and give them laboratory experiences with long chain molecules. Participation in recycling programs will increase because of the students' new understanding and appreciation of polymers.

Promoting Diversity through Interactive Music and Auditory Stimulation

Key Center School

6404 Franconia Road, Springfield, Va. 22150; 703-313-4000;

FAX 703-313-3945

Submitted by: Emily Graves and Kim Hudson

This is a structured music activity where students will select multicultural band instruments to explore various cultures represented in the classroom. A variety of music, including Asian and African, will be played while students are verbally prompted to make music. By using a variety of musical instruments, students' auditory and visual senses will be stimulated while their responses will be tracked and documented.

School Needs Store by Special Needs Children

Tuckahoe Elementary School

6550 North 26th Street, Arlington, Va. 22213; 703-228-5288;

FAX 703-237-1548

Submitted by: Cheryl Douglass, Eileen Smith, Elaine Porter and Patricia Apfelbaum

Through the setting up and operating of a small school store, special needs students will have a unique opportunity to develop practical life skills in math, language arts, economics and visual arts. The project will foster good social skills and the use of group decision making and problem solving.

Smart Snacks

Robinson Secondary School

5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, Va. 22032; 703-426-2154;

FAX 703-426-2297

Submitted by: Cathryn Krebs and Kimberly Avila

Smart Snacks provides additional supplemental instruction in cooking skills for visually impaired, secondary school students. A hands-on, five-session after-school program will allow students to prepare nutritious snacks in a small group situation.

Social Studies Meets the String Orchestra

Sangster Elementary School

7420 Reservation Drive, Springfield, Va. 22153; 703-644-8200;

FAX 703-644-8297

Submitted by: Mary L. Wagner

This is a program for fourth through sixth grade string orchestra students who will learn and perform music that complements the social studies curriculum. Students will perform mini-concerts with their grade level throughout the year. At a culminating concert in June, the students will perform and give brief speeches connecting the music to the curriculum.

Stock Market Approach to Algebra

T.C. Williams High School
3330 King Street, Alexandria, Va. 22303; 703-824-6800;
FAX 703-824-6826

Submitted by: Mercedes Huffman

High school students will follow a regular algebra curriculum including basic paper and pencil practice problems. In addition, they will also research companies and calculate profits and losses resulting from their simulated investments in the stock market. Students can then apply these mathematical concepts toward real-life situations that they will be able to utilize again and again.

The Physics of Toys

Manassas Park High School
8200 Euclid Avenue, Manassas Park, Va. 20111; 703-361-9131;
FAX 703-330-1218

Submitted: Katherine Maurer

This is a program for junior and senior high school students that demonstrates physics is a part of everyday life. Students will examine a variety of commercially available toys to learn the physics behind them and present their findings by creating a series of posters.

Using Personal Tape Players to Enhance Student Learning

Weems Elementary School
8750 Weems Road, Manassas, Va. 20110; 703-257-8799;
FAX 703-257-8786

Submitted by: Linda J. Mycko

Third grade English as a Second Language (ESL) students will use personal tape players in conjunction with books on tape in both English and Spanish to increase their knowledge of English. The personal tape player gives the students the ability to listen to the same information as others in the class but at their own pace. It allows the students to learn the materials being taught and provides them with a sense of accomplishment.

Where In The World...Is That Stamp From?

Arlington Traditional School
885 North Edison Street, Arlington, Va. 22205; 703-228-6290;
FAX 703-522-1482

and

Hoffman Boston Elementary School
1415 South Queen Street, Arlington, Va. 22204; 703-228-5845;
FAX 703-892-4526

Submitted by: Barbara Papantoniou

Fourth and fifth grade students will form a Stamp Club where they will research the origins of stamps. They will research the countries where the stamps originate and design album pages to build a school stamp collection.

Weslandia and Student Created Civilizations

Mill Run Elementary School
42905 Waxpool Road, Ashburn, Va. 20148; 703-779-8927;
FAX 703-779-8932

Submitted by: Carolyn Unger and Mark Wojick

Weslandia by Paul Fleishman will be the catalyst for third grade students to create their own new civilizations. Students will interpret and apply their knowledge of ancient civilizations they study during the school year. The final product will be a model or a play showing the civilization's staple food crop, system of government, numbering system, art, history, and the economic system needed to make a successful civilization.